

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of retrieving information for delivery across a network to at least one user,  
5 comprising:

monitoring an information delivery rate across said network to said user;

10 determining an information retrieval rate based at least in part on said monitored  
information delivery rate;

retrieving information from at least one storage device coupled to said network at said  
determined information retrieval rate; and

delivering said retrieved information across said network to said user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises adjusting said  
determined information retrieval rate on a real time basis by monitoring said information  
delivery rate across said network to said user on a real time basis; and determining said  
information retrieval rate on a real time basis based at least in part on said real time  
monitored information delivery rate.

25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said information comprises memory units of a data  
object that comprises multiple memory units; and wherein said method further comprises  
storing said memory units in a buffer/cache memory prior to delivering said retrieved  
memory units across said network to said user.

30 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said information comprises memory units of a first  
data object comprising multiple memory units for delivery to a first user; and wherein said  
method further comprises retrieving and storing memory units in said buffer/cache memory  
for at least one additional data object comprising multiple memory units for delivery to at

least one additional user; and wherein said memory units of said first data object and said memory units of said second data object are simultaneously stored in said buffer/cache memory.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the total of the number of memory units associated with said first data object and the number of memory units associated with said at least one additional data object equals or exceeds the available memory size of said buffer/cache memory.

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6. The method of claim 3, wherein said storage device comprises a disk storage device; wherein said information comprises memory units of a first data object comprising multiple disk blocks for delivery to a first user; and wherein said method further comprises retrieving and storing memory units in said buffer/cache memory for at least one additional data object comprising multiple disk blocks for delivery to at least one additional user; wherein said memory units of said first data object and said memory units of said second data object are simultaneously stored in said buffer/cache memory; and wherein the total of the number of memory units associated with said first data object and the number of memory units associated with said at least one additional data object equals or exceeds the available memory size of said buffer/cache memory.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein said information comprises memory units of an over-size data object; wherein said delivering comprises delivering said memory units to said user in response to a request for information from said user; and wherein said method further comprises storing said memory units in a buffer/cache memory prior to delivering said retrieved memory units across said network to said user.

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8. The method of claim 3, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is equal to said monitored information delivery rate.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is proportional to said monitored information delivery rate

5 10. The method of claim 3, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is sufficient to ensure that memory units of said data object are stored and resident within said buffer/cache memory when said memory units are required to be delivered to said user in a manner that prevents interruption or hiccups in the delivery of said data object.

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11. The method of claim 3, wherein said method comprises:

monitoring a first information delivery rate across said network for a first user, and monitoring a second information delivery rate across said network for a second user;

15 determining a first information retrieval rate for said first user based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate, and determining a second information retrieval rate for said second user based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate;

20 retrieving first memory units at said first determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said first memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

25 retrieving second memory units at said second determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said second memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

30 delivering said first retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said first user; and

delivering said second retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said second user.

5       12. The method of claim 11, wherein said first determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate using a first information retrieval relationship; wherein said second determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate using a second information retrieval relationship; and wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship.

10      13. The method of claim 11, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one of a request for said information received from said first or second users; one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one user requesting said delivery of said information, or a combination thereof.

20      14. The method of claim 11, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more class identification parameters, one or more system performance parameters, or a combination thereof.

25      15. The method of claim 3, wherein said memory units are retrieved from at least one storage device by a storage management processing engine coupled to said at least one storage device; wherein said memory units are stored in a buffer/cache memory of said storage management processing engine; wherein a request for said memory units is received from a server coupled between said storage management processing engine and said network; and wherein said memory units are delivered from said buffer/cache memory to said user via said server.

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16. The method of claim 3, wherein said memory units are retrieved from at least one storage device by a server processor coupled to said at least one storage device; wherein said

memory units are stored in a buffer/cache memory of said server; and wherein said memory units are delivered from said buffer/cache memory of said server to said user.

5        17. The method of claim 3, wherein said memory units are retrieved from at least one storage device by a storage management processing engine of an information management system coupled to said network; wherein said memory units are stored in a buffer/cache memory of said information management system; wherein a request for said memory units is received from at least one other processing engine of said information management system  
10        coupled to said storage management processing engine; and wherein said memory units are delivered to said user from said information management system across said network.

15        18. The method of claim 1, wherein said information comprises memory units of two or more data objects contiguously stored on said at least one storage device and related to one another by at least one inter-data object relationship; and wherein said retrieving comprises retrieving said two or more data objects together from said at least one storage device.

20        19. The method of claim 1, wherein said information comprises a noncontiguously placed data object stored on said at least one storage device; and wherein said retrieving comprises retrieving said non-contiguously placed data object using a read ahead size that is equal to or less than a storage device block size of said non-contiguously placed data object on said at least one storage device.

25        20. The method of claim 17, wherein said memory units are delivered from said buffer/cache memory to said network in a manner that bypasses said at least one other processing engine of said information management system.

30        21. The method of claim 17, wherein said information management system comprises a content delivery system; and wherein said data object comprises continuous streaming media data.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said information management system comprises an endpoint content delivery system.

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23. A method of retrieving information from a storage system having at least one storage management processing engine coupled to at least one storage device and delivering said information across a network to a user from a server coupled to said storage system, said method comprising:

monitoring an information delivery rate across said network from said server to said user;

15 determining an information retrieval rate based at least in part on said monitored information delivery rate;

20 using said storage management processing engine to retrieve information from said at least one storage device at said determined information retrieval rate and to store said retrieved information in a buffer/cache memory of said storage management processing engine; and

25 delivering said stored information from said buffer/cache memory across said network to said user via said server.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said information comprises memory units of a data object that comprises multiple memory units; and wherein said delivering comprises delivering said memory units to said user via said server in response to a request for said information received by said storage management processing engine from said server.

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25. The method of claim 24, wherein said method further comprises adjusting said determined information retrieval rate on a real time basis by monitoring said information

delivery rate across said network from said server to said user on a real time basis; and determining said information retrieval rate on a real time basis based at least in part on said real time monitored information delivery rate.

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26. The method of claim 24, further comprising identifying a request from said user for information that comprises a request for a data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device; and in response to said identification not storing memory units of said data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device in said buffer/cache memory.

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27. The method of claim 24, wherein said information delivery rate is monitored by at least one processor of said server; wherein said method further comprises communicating said monitored information delivery rate to said storage management processing engine; and wherein said information retrieval rate is determined by said storage management processing engine based at least in part on said monitored information delivery rate.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is equal to said monitored information delivery rate.

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29. The method of claim 27, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is proportional to said monitored information delivery rate

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30. The method of claim 27, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is sufficient to ensure that requested memory units of said data object are stored and resident within said buffer/cache memory when said request is received.

31. The method of claim 27, wherein said method comprises:

monitoring a first information delivery rate across said network for a first user, and monitoring a second information delivery rate across said network for a second user;

5 determining a first information retrieval rate for said first user based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate, and determining a second information retrieval rate for said second user based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate;

10 retrieving first memory units at said first determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said first memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

15 retrieving second memory units at said second determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said second memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

20 delivering said first retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said first user; and

25 delivering said second retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said second user.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said first determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate using a first information retrieval relationship; wherein said second determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate using a second information retrieval relationship; and wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship.

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33. The method of claim 31, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one of a request for said information

received from said first or second users; one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one user requesting said delivery of said information, or a combination thereof.

5       34. The method of claim 31, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more class identification parameters, one or more system performance parameters, or a combination thereof.

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35. The method of claim 24, wherein said storage system comprises an endpoint storage system; and wherein said data object comprises continuous streaming media data.

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36. The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one storage device comprises a RAID storage disk array; and wherein said storage management processing engine comprises a RAID controller.

37. A network-connectable storage system, comprising:

at least one storage device; and

25       a storage management processing engine coupled to said at least one storage device, said storage management processing engine including a buffer/cache memory;

30       wherein said storage management processing engine is capable of determining an information retrieval rate for retrieving information from said storage device and storing said information in said buffer/cache memory, said information retrieval rate being determined based at least in part on a monitored information delivery rate from a server to a user across said network that is communicated to said storage management processing engine from a server coupled to said storage management processing engine.

38. The system of claim 37, further comprising a server coupled between a network and said storage management processing engine; wherein said information delivery rate comprises a delivery rate for information delivered to a user from said server across said network; and wherein said server includes a processor capable of monitoring said information delivery rate; and wherein said server is further capable of communicating said monitored information delivery rate to said storage management processing engine; wherein said information comprises memory units of a data object that comprises multiple memory units; and wherein said storage management processing engine is capable of delivering said memory units to said user via said server in response to a request for said memory units received by said storage management processing engine from said server.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein said storage management processing engine is further capable of adjusting said determined information retrieval rate on a real time basis by monitoring said information delivery rate across said network from said server to said user on a real time basis; and determining said information retrieval rate on a real time basis based at least in part on said real time monitored information delivery rate.

40. The system of claim 38, wherein said server processor is further capable of identifying a request for information that comprises a request from said user for a data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device; and in response to said identification of said data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device performing at least one of: not communicating said monitored information delivery rate to said storage processing engine, communicating to said storage management processing engine an indicator or tag that storage in said buffer/cache memory is not required for memory units of said requested data object, or a combination thereof.

41. The system of claim 38, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is equal to said monitored information delivery rate.

42. The system of claim 38, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is proportional to said monitored information delivery rate

5 43. The system of claim 38, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is sufficient to ensure that requested memory units of said data object are stored and resident within said buffer/cache memory when said request is received.

10 44. The system of claim 38, wherein said server comprises at least one processor capable of monitoring a first information delivery rate across said network for a first user, and monitoring a second information delivery rate across said network for a second user; wherein said storage management processing engine is capable of determining a first information retrieval rate for said first user based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate, and determining a second information retrieval rate for said second user based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate; wherein said storage management engine is further capable of retrieving first memory units at said first determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said first memory units in said buffer/cache memory, and retrieving second memory units at said second determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said second memory units in said buffer/cache memory; and wherein said storage management processing engine is further capable of delivering said first retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said server for delivery across said network to said first user, and delivering said second retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said server for delivery across said network to said second user.

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30 45. The system of claim 44, wherein said first determined information retrieval rate is based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate using a first information retrieval relationship; wherein said second determined information retrieval rate is based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate using a second information retrieval relationship; and wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship.

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46. The system of claim 44, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one of a request for said information received from said first or second users; one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one user requesting said delivery of said information, or a combination thereof.

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47. The system of claim 44, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more class identification parameters, one or more system performance parameters, or a combination thereof.

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48. The system of claim 38, wherein said storage system comprises an endpoint storage system; and wherein said data object comprises continuous streaming media data.

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49. The system of claim 38, wherein said at least one storage device comprises a RAID storage disk array; and wherein said storage management processing engine comprises a RAID controller.

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50. A method of retrieving information from at least one storage device and delivering said information across a network to a user from a server coupled to said storage device, said method comprising:

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monitoring an information delivery rate across said network from said server to said user;

determining an information retrieval rate based at least in part on said monitored information delivery rate;

retrieving said information from said at least one storage device at said determined information retrieval rate and storing said retrieved information in a buffer/cache memory coupled to said server; and

5           delivering said stored information from said buffer/cache memory across said network to said user via said server.

10          51.       The method of claim 50, wherein said information comprises memory units of a data object that comprises multiple memory units; wherein said information delivery rate is monitored by at least one processor of said server; and wherein said information retrieval rate is determined by at least one processor of said server based at least in part on said monitored information delivery rate.

15          52.       The method of claim 51, wherein said method further comprises adjusting said determined information retrieval rate on a real time basis by monitoring said information delivery rate across said network from said server to said user on a real time basis; and determining said information retrieval rate on a real time basis based at least in part on said real time monitored information delivery rate.

20          53.       The method of claim 51, further comprising identifying a request from said user for information that comprises a request for a data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device; and in response to said identification not storing memory units of said data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device in said buffer/cache memory.

25          54.       The method of claim 51, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is equal to said monitored information delivery rate.

55. The method of claim 51, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is proportional to said monitored information delivery rate

5 56. The method of claim 51, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is sufficient to ensure that memory units of said data object are stored and resident within said buffer/cache memory when said memory units are required to be delivered to said user in a manner that prevents interruption or hiccups in the delivery of said data object.

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57. The method of claim 51, wherein said method comprises:

monitoring a first information delivery rate across said network for a first user, and monitoring a second information delivery rate across said network for a second user;

determining a first information retrieval rate for said first user based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate, and determining a second information retrieval rate for said second user based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate;

20 retrieving first memory units at said first determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said first memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

25 retrieving second memory units at said second determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said second memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

30 30 delivering said first retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said first user; and

delivering said second retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said second user.

5        58. The method of claim 57, wherein said first determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate using a first information retrieval relationship; wherein said second determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate using a second information retrieval relationship; and wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship.

10      59. The method of claim 57, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one of a request for said information received from said first or second users; one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one user requesting said delivery of said information, or a combination thereof.

15      60. The method of claim 57, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more class identification parameters, one or more system performance parameters, or a combination thereof.

20      61. The method of claim 51, wherein said data object comprises continuous streaming media data.

25      62. The method of claim 51, wherein said at least one storage device comprises a RAID storage disk array; and wherein said storage management processing engine comprises a RAID controller.

30      63. A network-connectable server system, said system comprising:

          a server including at least one server processor; and

a buffer cache memory coupled to said server;

wherein said server is further connectable to at least one storage device; and

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wherein said at least one server processor is capable of monitoring an information delivery rate across a network from said server to a user, and is further capable of determining an information retrieval rate for retrieving information from said storage device and storing said information in said buffer/cache memory, said information retrieval rate being determined based at least in part on said monitored information delivery rate.

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64. The system of claim 63, wherein said information comprises memory units of a data object that comprises multiple memory units.

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65. The system of claim 64, wherein said at least one server processor is capable of adjusting said determined information retrieval rate on a real time basis by monitoring said information delivery rate across said network from said server to said user on a real time basis; and determining said information retrieval rate on a real time basis based at least in part on said real time monitored information delivery rate.

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66. The system of claim 64, wherein said at least one server processor is further capable identifying a request for information that comprises a request from said user for a data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device; and in response to said identification of said data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device not storing memory units of said requested data object in said buffer/memory cache.

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67. The system of claim 64, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is equal to said monitored information delivery rate.

68. The system of claim 64, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is proportional to said monitored information delivery rate

5       69. The system of claim 64, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is sufficient to ensure that memory units of said data object are stored and resident within said buffer/cache memory when said memory units are required to be delivered to said user in a manner that prevents interruption or hiccups in the delivery of said data object.

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70. The system of claim 64, wherein said server comprises at least one processor capable of monitoring a first information delivery rate across said network for a first user, and monitoring a second information delivery rate across said network for a second user; wherein at least one server processor is capable of determining a first information retrieval rate for said first user based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate, and determining a second information retrieval rate for said second user based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate; wherein said server is capable of retrieving first memory units at said first determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said first memory units in said buffer/cache memory, and retrieving second memory units at said second determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said second memory units in said buffer/cache memory; and wherein said server is further capable of delivering said first retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory across said network to said first user, and delivering said second retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory across said network to said second user.

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71. The system of claim 70, wherein said first determined information retrieval rate is based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate using a first information retrieval relationship; wherein said second determined information retrieval rate is based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate using a second information retrieval relationship; and wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship.

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5        72. The system of claim 70, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one of a request for said information received from said first or second users; one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one user requesting said delivery of said information, or a combination thereof.

10        73. The system of claim 70, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more class identification parameters, one or more system performance parameters, or a combination thereof.

15        74. The system of claim 64, wherein said data object comprises continuous streaming media data.

20        75. The system of claim 64, wherein said at least one storage device comprises a RAID storage disk array; and wherein said at least one server processor coupled to said server is capable of acting as a RAID controller.

25        76. A method of retrieving information from an information management system having at least one first processing engine coupled to at least one storage device and delivering said information across a network to a user from a second processing engine of said information management system coupled to said first processing engine, said method comprising:

30        monitoring an information delivery rate across said network from said second processing engine to said user;

              determining an information retrieval rate based at least in part on said monitored information delivery rate;

using said second processing engine to retrieve information from said at least one storage device at said determined information retrieval rate and to store said retrieved information in a buffer/cache memory of said information management system; and

5           delivering said stored information from said buffer/cache memory across said network to said user via said second processing engine;

10           wherein said first processing engine comprises a storage management processing engine; and wherein said first and second processing engines are processing engines communicating as peers in a peer to peer environment via a distributed interconnect coupled to said processing engines.

20           77. The method of claim 76, wherein said information comprises memory units of a data object that comprises multiple memory units; and wherein said delivering comprises delivering said memory units to said user via said second processing engine in response to a request for said information received by said storage management processing engine from said second processing engine.

25           78. The method of claim 77, wherein said method further comprises adjusting said determined information retrieval rate on a real time basis by monitoring said information delivery rate across said network from said second processing engine to said user on a real time basis; and determining said information retrieval rate on a real time basis based at least in part on said real time monitored information delivery rate.

30           79. The method of claim 77, further comprising identifying a request from said user for information that comprises a request for a data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device; and in response to said identification not storing memory units of said data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device in said buffer/cache memory.

80. The method of claim 77, wherein said information delivery rate is monitored by said second processing engine; wherein said method further comprises communicating said monitored information delivery rate to said storage management processing engine; and wherein said information retrieval rate is determined by said storage management processing engine based at least in part on said monitored information delivery rate.

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81. The method of claim 80, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is equal to said monitored information delivery rate.

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82. The method of claim 80, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is proportional to said monitored information delivery rate

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83. The method of claim 80, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is sufficient to ensure that requested memory units of said data object are stored and resident within said buffer/cache memory when said request is received.

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84. The method of claim 80, wherein said method comprises:

monitoring a first information delivery rate across said network for a first user, and monitoring a second information delivery rate across said network for a second user;

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determining a first information retrieval rate for said first user based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate, and determining a second information retrieval rate for said second user based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate;

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retrieving first memory units at said first determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said first memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

retrieving second memory units at said second determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said second memory units in said buffer/cache memory;

5       delivering said first retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said first user; and

delivering said second retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said second user.

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85.     The method of claim 84, wherein said first determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate using a first information retrieval relationship; wherein said second determined information retrieval rate is determined based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate using a second information retrieval relationship; and wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship.

20       86.     The method of claim 84, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one of a request for said information received from said first or second users; one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one user requesting said delivery of said information, or a combination thereof.

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87.     The method of claim 84, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more class identification parameters, one or more system performance parameters, or a combination thereof.

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88. The method of claim 77, wherein said information management system comprises an endpoint content delivery system; and wherein said data object comprises continuous streaming media data.

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89. A network-connectable information management system, comprising:

at least one storage device;

10 a first processing engine comprising a storage management processing engine coupled to said at least one storage device;

a buffer/cache memory;

15 a network interface connection to couple said information management system to a network; and

20 a second processing engine coupled between said first processing engine and said network interface connection;

25 wherein said storage management processing engine is capable of determining an information retrieval rate for retrieving information from said storage device and storing said information in said buffer/cache memory, said information retrieval rate being determined based at least in part on a monitored information delivery rate from said second processing engine to a user across said network that is communicated to said storage management processing engine from said second processing engine.

30 90. The system of claim 89, wherein said information delivery rate comprises a delivery rate for information delivered to a user from said second processing engine across said network; and wherein said second processing engine is capable of monitoring said information delivery rate; and wherein said second processing engine is further capable of communicating said monitored information delivery rate to said storage management processing engine; wherein said information comprises memory units of a data object that

comprises multiple memory units; and wherein said storage management processing engine is capable of delivering said memory units to said user via said second processing engine in response to a request for said memory units received by said storage management processing engine from said second processing engine.

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91. The system of claim 90, wherein said storage management processing engine is further capable of adjusting said determined information retrieval rate on a real time basis by monitoring said information delivery rate across said network from said second processing engine to said user on a real time basis; and determining said information retrieval rate on a real time basis based at least in part on said real time monitored information delivery rate.

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92. The system of claim 90, wherein said second processing engine is further capable of identifying a request for information that comprises a request from said user for a data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device; and in response to said identification of said data object having a size less than a block or stripe size of said storage device performing at least one of: not communicating said monitored information delivery rate to said storage processing engine, communicating to said storage management processing engine an indicator or tag that storage in said buffer/cache memory is not required for memory units of said requested data object, or a combination thereof.

93. The system of claim 90, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is equal to said monitored information delivery rate.

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94. The system of claim 90, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is proportional to said monitored information delivery rate

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95. The system of claim 90, wherein said determined information retrieval rate is sufficient to ensure that requested memory units of said data object are stored and resident within said buffer/cache memory when said request is received.

5       96. The system of claim 90, wherein said second processing engine is capable of monitoring a first information delivery rate across said network for a first user, and monitoring a second information delivery rate across said network for a second user; wherein  
10      said storage management processing engine is capable of determining a first information retrieval rate for said first user based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate, and determining a second information retrieval rate for said second user based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate; wherein said storage management engine is further capable of retrieving first memory units at said first determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said first memory units in said buffer/cache memory, and retrieving second memory units at said second determined information retrieval rate from said at least one storage device, and storing said second memory units in said buffer/cache memory; and wherein said storage management processing engine is further capable of delivering said first retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said second processing engine for delivery across said network to said first user, and delivering said second retrieved memory units from said buffer/cache memory to said second processing engine for delivery across said network to said second user.

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15      97. The system of claim 96, wherein said first determined information retrieval rate is based at least in part on said first monitored information delivery rate using a first information retrieval relationship; wherein said second determined information retrieval rate is based at least in part on said second monitored information delivery rate using a second information retrieval relationship; and wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship.

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30      98. The system of claim 96, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one of a request for said information received from said first or second users; one or more priority-indicative parameters associated with at least one user requesting said delivery of said information, or a combination thereof.

5       99. The system of claim 96, wherein said first information retrieval relationship differs from said second information retrieval relationship based at least in part on one or more class identification parameters, one or more system performance parameters, or a combination thereof.

10      100. The system of claim 90, wherein said information management system comprises an endpoint content delivery system; and wherein said data object comprises continuous streaming media data.